

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIE-00 L-02 SSO-00 SPC-03 DRC-01

PRS-01 /047 W

----- 003944

R 301400Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6449

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LIMDIS

AF/C PASS AMB VANCE

DEPT PASS USIA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: APER, CG, CASC, PINS

SUBJ: DETENTION OF USIS OFFICER BY ZAIRIAN POLICE

1. USIS PROGRAM OFFICER DAVID SEAL WAS DETAINED BY UNIFORMED POLICE (GENDARMES) ON JANUARY 23 WHILE SEEKING TO PHOTOGRAPH EARTH SATELLITE STATION ON OUTSKIRTS OF KINSHASA. HE WAS WORKING ON AGENCY PROJECT AND HAD OBTAINED AUTHORIZATION OVER PHONE FROM GOZ DEPARTMENT OF POST AND TELEGRAPH FOR PHOTOGRAPHING (NORMALLY FORBIDDEN). DESPITE SEAL'S APOLOGIES AND OFFER TO TURN OVER FILM UNTIL WRITTEN PERMISSION COULD BE OBTAINED, GENDARMES DETAINED HIM, SEARCHED HIS OFFICIAL VEHICLE, TOOK POSSESSION OF HIS CAMERA AND DIPLOMATIC ID CARD, INTERROGATED HIM, MADE HIM SIGN A STATEMENT, AND AFTER FOUR HOURS TURNED HIM OVER TO CND (SECURITY POLICE) IN KINSHASA. CND TOOK POSSESSION OF CAMERA, FILM, AND ID CARD, TREATED SEAL RUDELY, AND RELEASED HIM AFTER 45 MINUTES WITH REQUEST HE RETURN NEXT MORNING TO PICK UP CONFISCATED ITEMS.

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2. UPON SEAL'S RETURN JAN 24 TO CND HEADQUARTERS HE WAS

MADE TO WAIT ONE HOUR AND THEN QUESTIONED ACCUSINGLY FOR FURTHER HOUR AND HALF BY AGENT WHO REFUSED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF AND WHO EXCLUDED US CONSULAR OFFICER FROM ROOM. HE WAS THEN MADE TO SIGN FURTHER STATEMENT UNDER THREAT OF BEING DETAINED UNTIL HE DID SO. CND AGENT THEN TOLD HIM TO RETURN IN AFTERNOON TO PICK UP CONFISCATED ITEMS.

3. EMBASSY SENT CONSULAR OFFICER IN SEAL'S PLACE ON JANUARY 26 AND HE WAS SMILINGLY HANDED CAMERA (WITHOUT FILM) AND ID CARD.

4. ON JANUARY 28, ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR, I CALLED ON DEPUTY STATE COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS INONGA. I EXPLAINED OFFICIAL NATURE OF SEALS MISSION TO EARTH STATION, EMPHASIZED HIS HAVING GIVEN ADVANCE NOTICE TO GOZ OFFICIALS, AND PRESENTED SUMMARY IN FRENCH OF SEALS ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM. I EXPRESSED PARTICULAR ASTONISHMENT OVER CND'S ATTITUDE SINCE ITS AGENTS SUPPOSED TO KNOW HOW TO TREAT DIPLOMATS. INONGA REGISTERED DISMAY AND ATTEMPTED TO TELEPHONE ACTING HEAD OF CND IN MY PRESENCE. FINDING HE WAS ABSENT, HE UNDERTOOK TO PURSUE MATTER FURTHER AND REPORT.

5. COMMENT: INCIDENT MAY STEM FROM REGIME'S REPEATED PUBLIC CALLS FOR VIGILANCE TOWARD FOREIGNERS DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF ECONOMIC DISLOCATION AND RISING PRICES. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP AS APPROPRIATE.

NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974016/aaaaafdd.tel
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Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: n/a
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Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <04-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

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